

From: 6-G.
Date: 15 Sept 1961.

Subject: INFORMATION about SOVIET UNION.

Source: A Recent Returnee from Soviet Estonia.

Reference: My Memorandum dated 26 July 1961.

1. Characterization of Soviet People.

People under Soviet rule change their ideas according to the conditions of life they are in. When condemned to camps of forced labor, they were against the regime. When rehabilitated, they did not find enough of good words to praise the government.

Source gives two examples:

- General-polkovnik KORFF, a victim of Stalin's purges, was in camps from 1937 to 1953. Rehabilitated after Beriya's death, he wrote back to his former co-retainees that he was given a house near Moscow to live in, and 3000 ruble pension per month, and he praised the government, whereas, when still in camp, he had spoken of the hope that "the lightning strikes from outside".

- General TOMBERG, when in camp, had confidently spoken to the Source that it would have been better had Estonia resisted Soviet Union (in 1939-40), this would have made good impression in the world. Back in Tallinn, having a good apartment to live in, good pension and salary, had for the government praise only, when speaking with the Source.

In general, the rehabilitated officers got their grades and rights for pension restored. The time spent in punitive establishments was accounted for like service in special circumstances. Special favorable consideration was given them in determination of the height of pension and new employment.

The Source finds that in these conditions the change of mind of these people is genuine is not a mere lip service.

2. Fate of Demobilized Military Personnel (understood: officers, 1960).

The Source finds that the reports in the western press, according to which there is dissatisfaction felt by those officers, have no basis, or are based upon wishful thinking.

These people were all directed to work in the civil sector, and they were given good jobs. Those entitled to pension received both, the pension and the salary for the new job, for example a general gets his

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pension and the salary in his quality of the director of a sovkhos. Those who were not entitled for a pension, were given good jobs, like a lieutenant who did not know anything about fishery and had never seen the sea, was made (by order) director of a fishery artel with monthly salary of 1100 ruble.

According to the Source many of those people belong into the Communist Party, or cooperate with it and, thus, receive some additional money. All this makes those former officers staunch supporters of the regime. Of course, there had been some misunderstandings in the beginning, when the local administration sometimes had not enough outstanding jobs to offer; the government (the State) can not be blamed for this, and these cases have been cleared.

3. Marshal KONEV.

In forced labor camp the Source was together with former Red Army colonel VOLKOV, Chief of Intelligence of the Army lead by Konev during the defense of Moscow. Volkov has told that once he accompanied Konev to the command post of the Army's Artillery Commander. Konev entered the hut and found the Artillery Commander, evidently exhausted and tired, slumbering at his desk, the head perched on the hand. Without saying a word, nor waking the Art. Commander, Konev shot him with pistol to death.

The Source thinks that Volkov, if rehabilitated, would not speak of such things any longer.

4. General TOMBERG.

As mentioned under p.1, Tomberg has a reasonable apartment to live in, his general's pension of 1300 ruble and the salary of an engineer with the Construction Trust of KEILA, - 1100 ruble (means 130 and 110 ruble per month in the new currency).

COMMENTS (by 6-G)

To point 1: It looks that the Source, if sincere, generalizes on the basis of the few cases he might have heard about. It looks more plausible that when in camps of forced labor, these people did not care any more, they had nothing more to lose, and thus, spoke openly with those whom they trusted. Back in better conditions of life, they are more cautious, do not say things which could cause the loss of the regained positions. They have good reasons to be very cautious, especially against the people whom they think have reasons, perhaps new ones, not to trust fully.

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To point 2: Probably a generalization similar to this in point 1. There were not too many former officers to be rehabilitated, most of them had died or were shot before Bariya died, and therefore, it would not have been ^{difficult} to treat the remaining few in some soothing way. With the demobilized officers the situation was different, there were tens of thousands of them, and it certainly should have been very difficult to find outstanding jobs for all of them. The Soviet newspapers wrote about captains who had to go into factories, to work on different machines after they had gone through special courses. Also, there were reports that such officers retained their old salaries but for a limited time, after which they had to be paid according to their ability in the new jobs, which was usually less than the salary in the army. Also, according to some writings, the pensioners don't get their full pensions in addition to the salary as was understood from Source's talks.

To point 3: Konev being now the C-in-Chief in East Germany, this point is quite interesting, although probably difficult to check for truthfulness.

To point 4: My evaluation of possible changes in Tomberg's personality remains as stated in my Memorandum of 26 January 1961.

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